

HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING: JUNE 6, 2022

The Howard County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, June 6, 2022, at 4:00 p.m. in Hearing Room 338 of the Howard County Administration Center. Those in attendance included President Paul Wyman, Vice President Brad Bray, Member Jack Dodd, and County Auditor Jessica Secrease, and County Attorney Alan Wilson.

The meeting was called to order by Major Gary Cook and conducted by President Paul Wyman. Commissioner Bray led the Pledge of Allegiance, and President Paul Wyman offered a word of prayer.

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the May 16, 2022, regular meeting, having been previously submitted and reviewed, were approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Dodd; Commissioner Bray seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

IN THE MATTER OF SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS / RECONGINITION:

Employee of the Month:

The Howard County Commissioners congratulated Howard County Community Supervision employee Danny McQuinn as the May Employee of the Month. Danny works as a pre-trial case worker. He is always a team player and is very much appreciated by his coworkers. It is with great honor that the Commissioners extended congratulations and the memento from Kokomo Opalescent Glass to him. Pictures were taken, and congratulations were given by all.

IN THE MATTER OF DEPARTMENTAL BUSINESS & REPORTS:

PLANNING COMMISSION:

Subdivision (Case 6-CP-22):

Planning Commission Executive Director Greg Sheline submitted a new subdivision, Sugar Mill Sec. 4 Subdivision, located on a new lot at 5333 Sugar Trace Russiaville, Indiana. There was a favorable recommendation by the board. There was no remonstrance. Sugar Mill Sec. 4 Subdivision has one lot and was approved, and it was also approved at the drainage board meeting with no remonstrance. With the new subdivision request having been heard, Commissioner Bray made a motion to approve Sugar Mill Sec. 4 Subdivision, Russiaville, Indiana as presented. Commissioner Dodd seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Subdivision (Case 7-CP-22):

Planning Commission Executive Director Greg Sheline submitted a new subdivision, Hartman Farms Subdivision, located on a new lot at 5493 W 500 N, Kokomo, Indiana. There was a favorable recommendation by the board. There was no remonstrance. Hartman Farms Subdivision has one lot and was approved, and it was also approved at the drainage board meeting with no remonstrance. With the new subdivision request having been heard, Commissioner Dodd made a motion to approve Hartman Farms Subdivision, Kokomo, Indiana as presented. Commissioner Bray seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Rezoning (Case 6-CZ-22):

Planning Commission Executive Director Greg Sheline submitted Ordinance No. 2022-BCCO-26 for the rezoning of the property located at 5333 Sugar Trace, Russiaville, Indiana from AG (Agricultural) to RR (Rural Residential). There was a favorable recommendation by the board. There was no remonstrance. With the rezoning request having been heard, Commissioner Dodd made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2022-BCCO-26 as presented. Commissioner Bray seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Rezoning (Case 9-CZ-22):

Planning Commission Executive Director Greg Sheline submitted Ordinance No. 2022-BCCO-27 for the rezoning of the property located at 5493 W 500 S, Kokomo, Indiana from AG (Agricultural) to RR (Rural Residential). There was a favorable recommendation by the board. There was no remonstrance. With the rezoning request having been heard, Commissioner Bray made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2022-BCCO-27 as presented. Commissioner Dodd seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

IN THE MATTER OF OLD BUSINESS:

Resolution No. 2022-BCCR -09 – Amending the American Rescue Plan Act Plan:

President Paul Wyman presented Resolution No. 2022-BCCR-09 – A Resolution of the Board of Commissioners Amending the American Rescue Plan Act Plan of Howard County. Resolution No. 2022-BCCR-09 was submitted and approved by Commissioner Dodd. Commissioner Bray seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

President Paul Wyman gave an update on the four categories of the ARPA Plan. The first category is Responding to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency in the amount of \$4,145,084.00. The second category is Responding to Negative Economic Impacts of COVID-19 in the amount of \$1,872,555.00. The third category is Provision of Government Services to the Extent of Reduction in Revenue in the amount of \$4,515,565.00. The fourth category is Water, Sewer, and Broadband Infrastructure in the amount of \$5,500,000.00. The total for all four categories is \$16,033,204.00.

President Wyman gave an update on some of the projects that are being paid through the ARPA Plan. The current Highway project is under construction. Projects that have taken place at the Government Center, Courthouse, and County Jail improvements amounted to \$100,000.00. COVID-19 testing and vaccines and other COVID-19 related items amounted to \$50,000.00. Grant funds for addiction and mental health services amounted to \$500,000.00. A small business program is being funded in the amount of \$500,000.00. Due to Marsh closing their local grocery stores, food deserts have taken place in Howard County. Mr. Wyman stated the County is working with the City to help with this matter and do a study to see where the most help is needed. The hotel Conference Center project, which was in the first round of the ARPA Plan, was \$500,000.00. Grant funding for housing amounted to \$250,000.00. Job training amounted to \$500,000.00. There is \$122,000.00 to use to aid in the backlog of the court cases. Along with this, there were two Prosecutors hired to help move cases through the court system faster. Other projects funded through the ARPA Plan include \$250,000.00 for child development, a major software projects in the amount of \$500,000.00, and records digitalization in the amount of \$500,000.00. Highway equipment is being purchased in the amount of \$500,000.00. County building repairs including the remodel of the County Courthouse, the remodel of all the courtrooms, updating the HVAC systems in most of the County buildings, and the remodel of the Administration Howard Haven is getting a much-needed upgrade to the kitchen and other areas totaling \$390,000.00. Cameras and security systems have been added to several of the County buildings that will allow the security systems to be on one system. This project will total to close to \$600,000.00. The water and sewer infrastructure projects will total to \$500,000.00. Drainage and water quality improvements, which will be used for the Industrial Park, will total to \$3,000,000.00. Broadband infrastructure projects will total to \$2,000,000.00.

President Wyman stated what a blessing the ARPA money has been for the County. Without it, most of these projects would have to have been funded by the County General Fund within the next two to five years. This takes the pressure off the local taxpayers and keeps the funds healthy in County Government. Also, President Wyman stated that he wanted to commend his fellow Commissioners, the County Council, and Department Heads who all have had a hand in the way this \$16,000,000.00 is going to be spent. The County really used the money to get the maximum amount for the dollar. Commissioner Bray said that he has been by the new County Highway Building and stated that it looks really nice.

IN THE MATTER OF CLAIMS AND REPORTS:

Howard County Auditor Jessica Secrease submitted the following claims and reports for the Commissioners' information and approval:

1. **Salary Claims:** The Commissioners' Salary, Hourly, and Overtime Claims for payment on May 20, 2022, in the amount of \$902,905.74 were submitted and approved on a motion made by Commissioner Dodd. Commissioner Bray seconded the motion, and the motion carried.
2. **Payroll Expenses:** The Commissioners' Payroll Expenses for payment on May 20, 2022, in the amount of \$902,543.60 were submitted and approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Dodd. Commissioner Bray seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

3. **Operating Claims:** The Commissioners' Operating Claims to be paid June 6, 2022, in the amount of \$2,216,231.66 was submitted and approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Dodd. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bray, and the motion carried.
4. **Monthly Reports:** Auditor Jessica Secrease presented the following reports to be received into the record:
 - i. Weights & Measures Report: April 16, 2022 - May 16, 2022
5. **Grant:**
 - a. Major Gary Cook asked permission to apply for the Crime Intelligence Analyst Grant through the COPS Hiring Grant. Commissioner Dodd gave Major Gary Cook permission to apply for the Intelligence Analyst Grant through the COPS Hiring Grant as presented. Commissioner Bray seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

*There being no further business to come before the Board of Commissioners at this time,
the meeting was adjourned at 4:22 p.m. on a motion made by Commissioner Dodd.
The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bray, and the motion carried.*

HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

PAUL G. WYMAN, PRESIDENT

ROBERT B. BRAY, VICE PRESIDENT

JACK W. DODD, MEMBER

ATTEST:

JESSICA SECREASE, AUDITOR

Howard County Commissioners' Meeting: June 6, 2022